

Troopers Investigate Shooting Incident ****Update-Suspect Name Released****

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary Fournier



Aaron T. Purnell

Dover, DE- Delaware State Police are investigating a shooting

incident that occurred at Alder Park Apartments in which gunfire was exchanged between a responding trooper and a suspect.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident occurred at approximately 8:20 p.m., Sunday July 24, 2016, when troopers were dispatched to area of "G" building, located at 51 Webbs Lane, for a report of a subject with a gun. Upon the trooper's arrival, a male subject matching the description given by the caller was located in between "G" and "H" buildings standing with another male individual. When the trooper attempted to make contact with the two, both subjects began to run away. The trooper gave chase around the rear of "G" building when the two men split up and the trooper continued to follow the subject matching the description with the gun. That individual then turned and fired a round from a handgun at the trooper which resulted in the trooper firing back. After a lengthy foot pursuit, the suspect, who was later identified as **Aaron T. Purnell**, 30 of Harrington (original release stated Milford), was apprehended by the trooper and taken into custody without further incident and was uninjured. A loaded 9mm handgun was located where Purnell was taken into custody.

Aaron Purnell was transported back to Troop 3 where he was charged with three counts of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, Aggravated Menacing, Reckless Endangering 1st, and Resisting Arrest with Force. He was arraigned at JP7 and committed to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center on \$96,000.00 cash bond.

The 38-year-old trooper involved in this incident has been employed by the Delaware State Police for 14 years and is assigned to Troop 3 patrol in Camden, DE. He has been placed on administrative leave as per Divisional Policy pending the outcome of the investigation. The trooper involved in this

incident was not injured.

Detectives from the Delaware State Police Homicide Unit responded to the scene and are conducting the investigation. This is an active and ongoing investigation with detectives continuing their investigation by conducting interviews and collecting evidence to determine the circumstances surrounding this incident.

If anyone may have witnessed this incident they are asked to contact Sergeant D. Weaver at 302-741-2728. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 072516 0800

###

****Original Release****

Troopers Investigate Shooting Incident

Dover, DE- Delaware State Police are investigating a shooting incident that occurred at Alder Park Apartments.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident occurred at approximately 8:20 p.m., Sunday July 24, 2016, when troopers were dispatched to area of "G" building, located at 51 Webb's Lane, for a report of a subject with a gun. Upon the trooper's arrival, a subject matching the description given by the caller was located in between "G" and "H" buildings. When the trooper attempted to make contact with the individual, he began to flee around the back side of the building as the trooper gave chase. The subject then turned and fired an unknown type of handgun at the trooper which resulted in the trooper firing back. After a lengthy foot pursuit, the suspect, who was later identified as a 30-year-

old Milford man, was apprehended by the trooper and taken into custody without further incident. There were no injuries to the suspect or the trooper.

Detectives are continuing their investigation by conducting interviews and collecting evidence to determine the circumstances surrounding this incident. Further details of this incident will be released upon the conclusion of the investigation. The suspect, whose name is being withheld, has not been formally charged at the time of this release.

If anyone may have witnessed this incident they are asked to contact Sergeant D. Weaver at 302-741-2728. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 072416 2355

###